

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 03111 071339Z

43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O R 071310Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 927

AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

S E C R E T TEHRAN 3111

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, VS

SUBJECT: ICCS: IRANIAN WITHDRAWAL PLANS

REF: STATE 077851

1. AMBASSADOR MET WITH SHAH IN PRIVATE AUDIENCE  
MIDDAY APRIL 7 TO PRESS OUR PLEA THAT GOI KEEP LARGEST  
POSSIBLE NUMBER OF PERSONNEL IN SAIGON CONSISTENT WITH  
SUSTAINING SECRETARIATE FUNCTIONS AND CREDIBLE  
IRANIAN PRESENCE. DRAWING ON STATE 077851 AND  
PREVIOUS, AMBASSADOR STRESSED DELETERIOUS PSYCHOLOGICAL  
EFFECT IRANIAN WITHDRAWAL COULD HAVE ON INDONESIANS  
AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE; THE AURA OF PANIC IT COULD FEED;  
THE ABANDONMENT OF THE ICCS TO THE COMMUNISTS; AND  
OUR JUDGMENT THAT THE SITUATION IN SAIGON REMAINS  
QUIET WITH NO GREATER THREAT TO THE AREA IN PROSPECT  
THAN IN THE PAST. THE AMBASSADOR REMINDED THE SHAH  
THAT HE HAD A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF EXPERIENCE IN VIET-  
NAMESE AFFAIRS AND THAT THE HEADLONG RUSH OF OPPOSITION  
TROOPS WAS INEVITABLY GOING TO RUN INTO LOGISTIC AND  
SUPPLY PROBLEMS--REINFORCING OUR ASSESSMENT THAT  
SAIGON WAS CURRENTLY IN NO MORE DANGER THAN IT HAD  
BEEN IN THE PAST.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 03111 071339Z

2. THE SHAH DID NOT DEBATE OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE SECURITY SITUATION IN SAIGON AND AS A MATTER OF FACT COMMENTED THAT HE DID NOT THINK HANOI WOULD PRESS THE MATTER TO THE POINT OF INFURIATING THE AMERICANS. AS FAR AS CONTINUING IRANIAN PRESENCE WAS CONCERNED, HE SAID THAT HE WAS GOING TO CONSULT AND COORDINATE WITH THE INDONESIANS. AFTER ALL, HE SAID, THEY HAVE BEEN CLOSER TO THE SITUATION LONGER AND KNOW MORE ABOUT IT THAN IRAN DOES. HE THEN SAID THAT QTE MOST UNQTE OF THE IRANIAN MILITARY WILL BE WITHDRAWN AND EXPLAINED HIS POSITION BY ASKING RHETORICALLY, QTE AFTER ALL, WHAT CAN THEY DO? UNQTE FINALLY HE SAID THAT IRANIAN CIVILIANS WOULD BE LEFT TO MAN THE SECRETARIAT.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE AMBASSADOR TOLD THE SHAH THAT 20 WOULD BE THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF PEOPLE WE HOPE IRAN WOULD LEAVE IN SAIGON, THE SHAH AVOIDED ANY SPECIFIC DISCUSSION OF NUMBERS CONFINING HIS REMARKS TO THOSE NOTED ABOVE. WE ARE UNCERTAIN, THEREFORE, AS TO WHAT NUMBER WILL BE LEFT IN PLACE BUT BELIEVE THAT IT WILL BE LINKED, AS THE SHAH SAID, DIRECTLY TO WHAT THE INDONESIANS DO AND PROBABLY ON A ONE-TO-ONE BASIS. AT A MINIMUM WE BELIEVE THAT WE CAN BE FAIRLY CERTAIN THE IRANIANS WILL NOT PULL OUT OF THE ICCS ALTOGETHER UNLESS THE INDONESIANS DO.  
HELMS

SECRET

NNN

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